This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Claim 1 (canceled)

Claim 2 (previously presented): An orthogonal frequency division multiplexing (OFDM) communication device, comprising:

an OFDM receiver for receiving an OFDM signal containing a multitone synchronization signal;

a synchronization interval sampler coupled to said receiver;

an initial time and frequency offset estimator connected to said sampler and said receiver; and

a frequency offset estimate refinement unit connected to said receiver, said sampler and said estimator,

wherein a reference multitone synchronization signal is used by said estimator and said refinement device in calculating a time offset and a frequency offset of said multitone synchronization signal, said receiver utilizing said time offset and said frequency offset to synchronize with said received OFDM signal, and

wherein said initial time and frequency offset estimator comprises:

a plurality of smoothed time-domain correlation estimators for outputting a series of time offset estimate and correlation estimate pairs, each pair related to a frequency offset estimate; and

a selector for selecting a selected time offset estimate and a selected initial frequency offset based in part

upon the selection of the frequency offset estimate and time offset estimate that corresponds with the largest value of correlation estimate.

Claim 3 (original): The system of claim 2, wherein the initial time and frequency offset estimator uses a coarse frequency discretization using *F* candidate frequency offsets.

Claim 4 (original): The system of claim 2, wherein said reference multitone synchronization signal has a length of T, and wherein said frequency offset estimate refinement device comprises:

a T-length interval extractor for extracting a T-length sample of the output of said sampler;

a numerical oscillator for generating a complex exponential of a candidate frequency offset;

a multiplier for multiplying said T-length sample with said complex exponential to obtain a frequency shifted received signal;

a correlator for correlating said frequency shifted received signal with said reference multitone synchronization signal and producing a correlation output; and

a numerical optimizer for receiving said correlation output and outputting a new frequency offset candidate.

Claim 5 (previously presented): The system of claim 4, wherein said new frequency offset candidate and a time offset associated

with said new frequency offset candidate are used by said receiver if said new frequency offset candidate is a candidate that yields a maximum correlation output.

Claim 6 (canceled)

Claim 7 (previously presented): The system of claim 2, wherein each of said smoothed time domain correlation estimators comprises:

a time domain correlator;

a smoothing filter connected to said time domain correlator and receiving an output from said time domain correlator; and

a maximum detector connected to and receiving an output from said smoothing filter for detecting a signal energy maxima representing a time estimate at which the energy of said reference multitone synchronization signal is at a maximum.

Claim 8 (canceled)

Claim 9 (currently amended): ~~The method of claim 8, further comprising~~

A method of synchronizing an orthogonal frequency division multiplexing (OFDM) receiver with a received OFDM signal comprising a multitone synchronization signal, comprising the steps of:

obtaining a coarse time offset estimate of said received signal;

sampling said received signal in a selected time interval to derive samples of said multitone synchronization signal;

analyzing said samples with respect to a reference multitone synchronization signal to obtain, for each sample analyzed, a time offset, a frequency offset, and a signal energy;

selecting a one of said analyzed samples with the greatest signal energy to yield a selected time offset estimate and a selected frequency offset estimate for use by said receiver in synchronizing with said received OFDM signal; and

~~passing~~ using said selected time offset estimate and said selected frequency offset estimate to synchronize said receiver ~~for use by said receiver in sychronizing~~ with said received OFDM signal.

Claim 10 (currently amended): A method of carrying out OFDM communications comprising:

receiving an OFDM signal including within it a multitone synchronization signal;

locating said synchronization signal within said OFDM signal;

determining a time offset value of said synchronization signal;

determining an initial frequency offset value of said synchronization signal; and

recursively refining said frequency offset estimate to yield a selected pair of time and frequency offset values to be used by said OFDM receiver ; and

using said selected pair of time and frequency offset values to synchronize receiver operations with said received OFDM signal.

Claim 11 (currently amended): ~~The method of claim 10,~~ A method of carrying out OFDM communications comprising:

receiving an OFDM signal including within it a multitone synchronization signal;

locating said synchronization signal within said OFDM signal;

determining a time offset value of said synchronization signal;

determining an initial frequency offset value of said synchronization signal;

recursively refining said frequency offset estimate to yield a selected pair of time and frequency offset values to be used by said OFDM receiver; and

wherein said initial time offset value and said initial frequency offset value are determined by obtaining a correlation with a stored reference value of said synchronization signal.

Claim 12 (original): The method of claim 11, wherein said correlation is performed seeking a maximum received synchronization signal energy level.

Claim 13-14 (canceled)

Claim 15 (previously presented): An orthogonal frequency division multiplexing (OFDM) communication device, comprising:

means for receiving an OFDM signal containing a multitone synchronization signal;

means, coupled to said receiving means, for sampling a synchronization interval of said OFDM signal;

means, connected to said sampling means and said receiving means, for obtaining an initial time estimate and an initial frequency offset estimate of said OFDM signal;

means, connected to said receiving means, said sampling means and said estimating means, for obtaining a frequency offset estimate refinement;

storage means, connected to said estimating means and said refinement means, for storing a reference multitone synchronization signal for use by said estimating means and said refinement means in calculating a time offset and a frequency offset of said multitone synchronization signal, said receiving means utilizing said time offset and said frequency offset to synchronize with said received OFDM signal;

a plurality of means for obtaining smoothed time-domain (TDC) correlation estimates, said smoothed TDC estimate means outputting a series of time offset estimate and correlation estimate pairs, each pair related to a frequency offset estimate; and

means for selecting a selected time offset estimate and a selected initial frequency offset based in part upon the selection of the frequency offset estimate and time offset estimate that corresponds with the largest value of correlation estimate.

Claim 16 (original): The system of claim 15, wherein each of said smoothed TDC estimate means comprises:

a time domain correlator;

a smoothing filter connected to said time domain correlator and receiving an output from said time domain correlator; and

a maximum detector connected to and receiving an output from said smoothing filter for detecting a signal energy maxima representing a time estimate at which the energy of said reference multitone synchronization signal is at a maximum.

Claim 17 (original): The system of claim 16, wherein the estimating means uses a coarse frequency discretization using F candidate frequency offsets.

Claim 18 (original): The system of claim 15, wherein said reference multitone synchronization signal has a length of T, and wherein said refinement means comprises:

a T-length interval extractor for extracting a T-length sample of the output of said sampler;

a numerical oscillator for generating a complex exponential of a candidate frequency offset;

a multiplier for multiplying said T-length sample with said complex exponential to obtain a frequency shifted received signal;

a correlator for correlating said frequency shifted received signal with said reference multitone synchronization signal and producing a correlation output; and

a numerical optimizer for receiving said correlation output and outputting a new frequency offset candidate.

Claim 19 (original): The system of claim 18, wherein said new frequency offset candidate and a time offset associated with said new frequency offset candidate are used by said receiving means if said new frequency offset candidate is a candidate that yields a maximum correlation output.

Claims 20 and 21 (canceled)

Claim 22 (currently amended): ~~The device of claim 21, further comprising~~ A device for synchronizing an orthogonal frequency division multiplexing (OFDM) receiver with a received OFDM signal comprising a multitone synchronization signal, comprising:

means for obtaining a coarse time offset estimate of said received signal;

means for sampling said received signal in a selected time interval to derive samples of said multitone synchronization signal;

means for analyzing said samples with respect to a reference multitone synchronization signal to obtain, for each sample analyzed, a time offset, a frequency offset, and a signal energy;

means for selecting one of said analyzed samples with the greatest signal energy to yield a selected time offset estimate and a selected frequency offset estimate, wherein said selected time offset estimate and said selected frequency offset estimate

are used by said receiver in synchronizing with said received OFDM signal; and

means for passing said selected time offset estimate and said selected frequency offset estimate to said receiver for use by said receiver in synchronizing with said received OFDM signal.

Claim 23 (currently amended): A device for carrying out OFDM communications comprising:

means for receiving an OFDM signal including within it a multitone synchronization signal;

means for locating said synchronization signal within said OFDM signal;

means for determining a time offset value of said synchronization signal;

means for determining an initial frequency offset value of said synchronization signal; and

means for recursively refining said frequency offset estimate to yield a selected pair of time and frequency offset values to be used by said OFDM receiver; and

means for passing said selected time offset estimate and said selected frequency offset estimate to a receiver circuit for use by said receiver circuit in synchronizing with said received OFDM signal.

Claim 24 (currently amended): ~~The device of claim 23,~~ A device for carrying out OFDM communications comprising:

means for receiving an OFDM signal including within it a multitone synchronization signal;

means for locating said synchronization signal within said OFDM signal;

means for determining a time offset value of said synchronization signal;

means for determining an initial frequency offset value of said synchronization signal; and

means for recursively refining said frequency offset estimate to yield a selected pair of time and frequency offset values to be used by said OFDM receiver; and

wherein said initial time offset value and said initial frequency offset value are determined by obtaining a correlation with a stored reference value of said synchronization signal.

Claim 25 (original): The device of claim 24, wherein said correlation is performed seeking a maximum received synchronization signal energy level.

Claim 26-28 (canceled)

Claim 29 (previously presented): An OFDM signal processor comprising:

an OFDM receiver for receiving an OFDM signal containing a multitone synchronization signal;

a synchronization interval sampler connected to said input and said receiver;

an initial time and frequency offset estimator connected to said sampler and said receiver; and

a frequency offset estimate refinement device connected to said receiver, said sampler and said estimator,

wherein a reference multitone synchronization signal is used by said estimator and said refinement device in calculating a time offset and a frequency offset of said multitone synchronization signal, said receiver utilizing said time offset and said frequency offset to synchronize with said received OFDM signal, and

wherein said initial time and frequency offset estimator comprises:

a plurality of smoothed time-domain correlation estimators for outputting a series of time offset estimate and correlation estimate pairs, each pair related to a frequency offset estimate; and

a selector for selecting a selected time offset estimate and a selected initial frequency offset based in part upon the selection of the frequency offset estimate and time offset estimate that corresponds with the largest value of correlation estimate.

Claim 30 (original): The processor of claim 29, wherein each of said smoothed time domain correlation estimators comprises:

a time domain correlator;

a smoothing filter connected to said time domain correlator and receiving an output from said time domain correlator; and

a maximum detector connected to and receiving an output from said smoothing filter for detecting a signal energy maxima representing a time estimate at which the energy of said reference multitone synchronization signal is at a maximum.

Claim 31 (original): The processor of claim 29, wherein the initial time and frequency offset estimator uses a coarse frequency discretization using *F* candidate frequency offsets.

Claim 32 (original): The processor of claim 29, wherein said reference multitone synchronization signal has a length of T, and wherein said frequency offset estimate refinement device comprises:

a T-length interval extractor for extracting a T-length sample of the output of said sampler;

a numerical oscillator for generating a complex exponential of a candidate frequency offset;

a multiplier for multiplying said T-length sample with said complex exponential to obtain a frequency shifted received signal;

a correlator for correlating said frequency shifted received signal with said reference multitone synchronization signal and producing a correlation output; and

a numerical optimizer for receiving said correlation output and outputting a new frequency offset candidate.

Claim 33 (original): The processor of claim 32, wherein said new frequency offset candidate and a time offset associated with

said new frequency offset candidate are used by said receiver if said new frequency offset candidate is a candidate that yields a maximum correlation output.

Claim 34 (original): The processor of claim 32, wherein said initial time and frequency offset estimator comprises:

a first Fast Fourier Transformer for obtaining a transform of said received signal;

an second Fast Fourier Transformer device for obtaining a transform of said reference multitone synchronization signal;

a frequency domain correlation estimator for receiving said received signal transform and said reference signal transform and outputting an initial frequency offset estimate; and

a time domain correlation estimator for receiving said received signal transform and said reference signal transform and said initial frequency offset estimate and outputting a time offset estimate.

Claim 35 (currently amended): An OFDM transmitter comprising:

means for transmitting an OFDM signal comprising a first time interval and a second time interval, each of the first and second time intervals including at least one OFDM symbol transmission time period, the first and second time intervals recurring on a periodic basis;

means for transmitting data ~~at one or more data~~ on a plurality frequencies during said first time interval; and

means for transmitting, during said second time interval, a plurality of synchronization ~~tone~~ tones in parallel on different non-adjacent ~~, at one or more synchronization~~ frequencies, ~~for~~ said second time interval being a predetermined time period, the frequencies of said synchronization tones in said second time interval ~~tone~~ being distinct from said ~~data~~ frequencies used to transmit data in the first time interval, the first time interval immediately preceding the second time interval.

Claim 36 (currently amended): A method for transmitting an OFDM signal comprising the steps of:

transmitting an OFDM signal ~~comprising~~ during a first time interval, ~~and a second time interval;~~ the first time interval including at least one OFDM symbol transmission time period, ~~;~~ ~~means for~~ said step of transmitting data during the first time interval including transmitting data on a plurality ~~at one or more~~ of data frequencies ~~during said first time interval~~; and

transmitting an OFDM signal during a second time interval which includes at least one OFDM tone, said first and second time intervals being consecutive time intervals,

~~means for~~ transmitting~~,~~ during said second time interval~~,~~ including transmitting a plurality of ~~a~~ synchronization tones ~~tone,~~ at ~~one or more~~ a plurality of non-adjacent synchronization frequencies~~,~~ for a predetermined time period, the frequencies of said synchronization ~~tone~~ tones being distinct from said data frequencies used in the first time interval.

Claim 37 (new): The method of claim 35,

wherein the first and second time intervals are single OFDM symbol transmission time periods; and

wherein frequencies used for synchronization tones in a symbol transmission time period are not used in any immediately consecutive symbol transmission time period for synchronization tones.

Claim 38 (new): The method of claim 36,

wherein the first and second time intervals are single OFDM symbol transmission time periods; and

wherein at least three frequencies are used for synchronization tones during each symbol transmission time period.